

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 7, 2013

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The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow; Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Highway Engineer/Supervisor, Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney who represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. Mr. Culp called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Sinks, Chief Probation Officer.

CLAIMS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKETS: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Dockets for the check dates equal to September 13, 2013 and September 30, 2013. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 3, 2013. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the following buried cable permits as submitted. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

HAGEMAN FARMS:

ACT# 675 Permit to cut into driveway or use Jasper County road right-of-way at 480W, SR 24 and 1600 S in Carpenter Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #675)

CENTURYLINK:

ACT# 489396 Permit to provide telephone service to ATT cell tower in Carpenter Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #676)

ACT# 13162845 Permit to bore under CR W 1100 North to replace a deteriorated buried service wire in Wheatfield Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #677)

NIPSCO:

ACT# 90268 Permit for the purpose of retiring buried regulators, installing above ground regulating station, and boring CR 1600S in Carpenter Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #678)

NITCO:

ACT# A13-007 Permit to cut into driveway or use Jasper County road right-of-way at 500N and 900W in Union Township. There is no tile in the area. (Permit #679)

CEDARBRIDGE TREATMENT CENTERS / AGREEMENT: Mike Sinks, Chief Probation Officer, stated that Cedarbridge will be raising their per diem from \$99.00 per day to \$119.00 per day. This is on the basis of a 500 day contract. As of August 1, we have used 428 days. The raise in per diem will change the contract amount from \$49,500.00 to \$59,500.00. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the agreement with Cedarbridge Treatment Centers subject to Attorney Beaver's approval. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PROPOSED DETOUR ROUTES / INDOT: Margaret Whitten, Project Manager / INDOT-LaPorte District, stated that there are five (5) county road bridges going over I-65 that will need to be closed in order to do maintenance and repairs on them. A second representative from INDOT stated that they will be limiting the contractor to close no more than two (2) bridges at one time and that they cannot close adjacent bridges. Detour routes were discussed and agreed upon for the following bridges: SR 16, CR 700 S, CR 850S, CR 200S and CR 1000W.

LAND ACQUISITION / DNR UPDATE: Tom Post, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, was present to give an update on the acquisition of the Rynberk Trust property. Mr. Post had approached the Commissioners in June of 2012 to request a letter of support for this project. Mr. Post explained that what they were trying to do was to purchase this piece of property using the Bicentennial Nature Trust. The Bicentennial Nature Trust is a program that was set up by the governor's office to celebrate the upcoming 200th anniversary of the State of Indiana. Mr. Post reported that the project has now been completed. The project consists of 160 acres of ground which actually connects two parcels that the department has been trying to connect for years. The plan is to have the property open for public use in the future. There is approximately 40 acres of farmground on the property which the DNR plans to lease for at least 3-4 years to help generate some revenue.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR / PORTER COUNTY: Michael Harper, Director / Porter County Weights & Measures, was present to assist the Commissioners with any questions they may have regarding the position of a Weights and Measures Inspector. Mr. Harper stated that the total cost to start a weights and measures inspection program would be approximately \$97,813.92. A 100 gallon prover will be needed for the high flow diesel meters at truck stops and for bulk fuel trucks. The cost is approximately \$29,900.00. Mr. Walstra asked how much time Mr. Harper felt that it would take someone to do our county? Mr. Harper replied that he felt that it could be done in approximately 3 months. Mr. Culp asked what kind of certification or training is required? Mr. Harper replied that a State Inspector would be sent to train any new employee. Further discussion took place. Mr. Walstra requested that Mr. Harper come up with a solid number as to what it would cost for him to do Jasper County. If the decision is made to use Mr. Harper's services rather than hire a new employee, an Inter-Local Agreement between Jasper County and Porter County will be needed.

M.J. DIEDAM PAINTING AND RESTORATION: Mike Diedam, M.J. Diedam Painting and Restoration, presented the following quotes for stencil repairs on the 1st and 2nd floors of the courthouse as well as repairs to the west side entrance.

REPAIR #1 / Basement Corridor – \$4,653.41

Repaint basement corridor walls

Repaint base color and stencil (matching as close as possible)

REPAIR #2 / 1st Floor - \$5,870.00

Repaint 1st floor lower wall from lower molding down to marble

Repaint stencil design and painted stripe

ADDENDUM #1 / Repair West Side Entrance - \$4,870.15

Scrape and remove all defective stucco / replace with new stucco

Apply two coats of masonry waterproof sealer tinted to match existing exterior color

Repair step using thoro-crete patch following manufacturer's guidelines

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the quotes submitted by Mike Diedam. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Diedam stated that he will begin as soon as possible (weather permitting).

YOUTH CENTER: Candace Armstrong stated that she is a local attorney who has been working with the families of JCYC on their legal matters from formation to working with Attorney Beaver on the lease. Attorney Armstrong stated that the two open items that Attorney Beaver is deferring is the term of the lease, initial and renewal, as well as the dollar amount of repairs. The families of JCYC have been fundraising from area business owners and will continue to do so within the community. Having a one (1) year lease will put them in a very difficult position to ask for funds to get through next year with the potential of having a lease not be there. Outside of the five (5) year lease, has there been internal discussion of the acceptability of a two (2) year lease to provide a little bit more time? After further discussion, Mr. Maxwell stated that he does not have a problem with a two (2) year lease. Mr. Culp asked for clarification on the section of the lease addressing "county property" where it states "fixtures and equipment presently located". Does this mean that anything purchased from here forward is property of the parents of JCYC?

YOUTH CENTER CON'T: Attorney Beaver replied that it is just stating that the property that is within the facility is the county's property. Anita Reed, JCYC Board Member, stated that she has taken pictures of the current inventory. Attorney Armstrong stated that she has advised the JCYC Board to keep proper records and receipts of any fixtures or major pieces that are acquired by the organization. Mr. Culp expressed concern with the portion of the lease agreement that states "Jasper County should be totally responsible for the foundation, HVAC, roof and structure". Attorney Armstrong replied that the reason behind this relates to the term of the lease. Mr. Culp replied that his biggest concern is the cooling. After some discussion, Attorney Armstrong agreed to strike cooling from the list. Further revisions were discussed. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the lease agreement subject to the agreed upon revisions. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

IT / UPDATE: Bill Batley, IT, stated that we are still waiting on some wiring to finish up the project at the Annex building. Due to their relocation, Child Support is in need of a multi-function printer. The cost will be \$67.00 per month and will be paid for out of the Child Support fund.

Mr. Batley stated that due to the current state of affairs in Washington, we have two county employees from Soil & Water that are being relocated. Permission was requested to create county e-mail addresses and log-in accounts for these two employees. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve both requests. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Batley also reported that he will be presenting a project at the next Commissioners' meeting to replace the current HP fleet.

AIRPORT PROPOSED BOUNDARIES: Craig Jackson, Jasper County Airport Board; Brad Cozza, Airport Manager; Richard Comingore, Airport Attorney; and Tony McMichael, Aviation Consultant / NGC Corp., were present to discuss the proposed boundaries for the Jasper County Airport. Mr. McMichael stated that currently everything is owned by Jasper County. The airport is really looking for developing the lease that was needed for them to maintain and control the area that they need to with what they have currently and then for future development. Exhibits of the boundaries were displayed and discussed. Mr. McMichael stated that the airport has been trying to improve the drainage as much as possible. We had to take a lot of the resources to work with the county and city to create the detention pond. With that, the water is all still coming from the north and, although it has improved, we would like to try to continue working in the area on the north side where the current hangers are located. Mr. McMichael stated that we did get surveying quotes this spring. Further discussion took place; however, no final decision was made at this time.

LITTLE COUSIN JASPER FESTIVAL: Pat Fox, Little Cousin Jasper Festival Committee, requested permission to use the county parking lot for next year's festival. Mr. Maxwell replied that the parking lot could be used after 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Mrs. Fox requested permission to use the one line of diagonal parking prior to this time in order to keep vendors from parking in the roadway; however, no decision was made at this time. Mrs. Fox reported that they are thinking of a "Back to the 50's" theme for next year. Since Lionel trains were a big part of the 50's, would there be any objections to a train display being set up within the Courthouse? Also, some of the festivals offer Courthouse tours during their festival. Would this be something that you would approve of? Mr. Culp replied that this would probably require more security. No final decision was made at this time.

SHERIFF UPDATE / ONGOING ISSUES: Sheriff Terry Risner reported that they recently had another issue with Prompt Ambulance reporting to an emergency scene that involved a fatal traffic crash. The accident occurred on 700S (Mt. Calvary Road) on September 26. The call came in at 12:26 a.m. reporting a subject in the vehicle upside down. Prompt Ambulance and Fire Rescue were dispatched. Prompt Ambulance called at 12:45 a.m. stating that they were lost. Additional instructions were given and they finally arrived on the scene at 12:50 a.m.

Sheriff Risner also reported that there was a double stabbing yesterday on 900N leading to both subjects being hospitalized in Porter County. We have reason to believe that narcotics may have been involved. Sheriff Risner stated that we have had two narcotics overdose deaths in the county in the last six weeks.

SHERIFF UPDATE / ONGOING ISSUES CON'T: Global Connect, the emergency contact system, has been bought out by a company called Red Alert. Since we are an existing customer, Red Alert will be giving us the same service price per year that was offered by Global Connect.

JASPER COUNTY JAIL FACILITY / UPDATE: Tom Alstott, EMCOR, was present to give an update on the progress of the current jail project. A kick-off meeting was held on September 26 with the successful subcontractors, Sheriff Risner and his staff. The first bi-weekly regularly scheduled progress meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. Meetings will take place every two weeks until the project is completed. Kurt Stevens, KB Solutions, will be meeting with a gentleman from Comfort Systems in regards to the continuing issues.

AFTER THE JASPER COUNTY REGIONAL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT MEETING:

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE FUNDS: Peter Kohut, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, explained that there are Transportation Alternative Funds available that use federal highway gas tax money to develop plans for trails. Mr. Haberlin stated that there is a possibility of connecting the sidewalk that goes past the youth center to the old black trail. There is no charge for the County to apply for the grant. Mr. Walstra made a motion to proceed with BF&S on the Transportation Alternative Funds for a grant for trails. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

FLAGPOLE / SUREVEYOR'S OFFICE: Vince Urbano, Surveyor, reported that they have the lift that will be used to repaint the flagpole this week. A cable will be used rather than a pulley system. Mr. Urbano will get a flag from the Veteran's Office.

GIS DATA REQUEST: Mr. Urbano stated that GIS data has recently been requested from a company that is working on behalf of the EPA. This company is requesting that the \$750.00 fee be waived. After review, the decision was made to not waive the fee.

OFFICE SUPPLIES / ALLOWABLE EXPENSES: Discussion took place regarding a recent purchase of Kleenex. This has not been an allowable expense within other offices; therefore, the claim was not approved. Auditor Grow suggested that a list of allowable office supplies be drawn up for the next Department Head meeting. After some discussion, Mr. Urbano stated that he was not going to pay for the claim out of his pocket. The claim will be paid; however, it was advised that this was not an allowable expense.

CASA DIRECTOR: Judge Potter was present to discuss the position of the new CASA Director. Judge Potter stated that we will have a written agreement with Newton County and Benton County regarding reimbursement. The total cost is yet to be determined. This position will be salaried-exempt. Judge Potter agreed to set the salary at \$34,178.00 – the same rate as a courthouse deputy. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the new position. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

EMPLOYEE BOND: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the employee bond for Cheryl C. Ekstrom, Clerk Registrar/Health Department. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD: William Wakeland, Director / Community Corrections, informed the Commissioners per letter that he recently received the resignation of Oscar Reyes from the Community Correction Advisory Board. After speaking with Judge Potter, Judge Ahler, and Advisory Board President, Jeff Phillips, Mr. Wakeland would like to recommend Jared Courtney to fill the balance of Mr. Reyes' term. Mr. Courtney lives in Rensselaer and works as a school case manager for Wabash Valley Mental Health. Mr. Courtney is very interested in this position. Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Jared Courtney to fill the remainder of the term held by Oscar Reyes. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND COMPENSATORY TIME / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS:

William Wakeland, Director / Community Corrections, stated per letter that, due to being short one full-time Correctional Officer, he has three employees who will not have their comp time used by October 31, 2013. The Work Release Supervisor and two (2) full-time Correctional Officers have been forced to work extra shifts. They are attempting to keep the comp time as low as possible and yet not pay overtime to the part-time Correctional Officer. Permission was requested to allow Melinda Scheffer, Work Release Supervisor, and Halleck Tanner, Correctional Officer, to have until December 20, 2013 to use their comp time. Permission was also requested to allow Justin Baggerly, Correctional Officer, to have until November 30, 2013 to use his comp time. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve all extensions requested for up to 60 days. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND COMPENSATORY TIME / SWCD: Jody Wilson, SWCD, requested per letter to extend 4.75 hours into the month of November. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request for up to 60 days. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

CONFERENCE REQUEST / PROSECUTOR: Kim Hitchcock, IV-D Administrator, has advised per letter that she along with Ashley Clark, Case Manager, will be attending the 7th Annual Border Project Conference on Friday, September 13 in Kenosha County Center in Bristol, Wisconsin. The hotel and other expenses will be paid from the IV-D Incentive Fund.

Ms. Hitchcock has also advised that she and Ashley Clark will be attending the 2013 Child Support Prosecutor's Fall Conference that is scheduled for October 29 and 30 in Indianapolis. The hotel and other expenses of this conference will be paid from the IV-D Incentive Fund. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve both requests. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE: Mary Ann Critser requested permission to attend the 2014 Election Administrators Conference being held in Indianapolis on December 16-18. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the conference request. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

VETERAN'S CONFERENCE & SEMINAR / REQUEST: Patrick Donnelly, Veterans Service Officer, attended the American Legion Veterans Benefit Seminar in Griffith on Friday, October 4. Mr. Donnelly will also be attending the Veterans Affairs fall meeting in Indianapolis on Friday, October 11.

Mr. Donnelly will be attending the quarterly Service Officer's meeting at the VA clinic in Crown Point on October 8 at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Donnelly will be using his own vehicle since he will be returning home after the meeting. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the requests. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PREA FACILITATOR CERTIFICATION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: William Wakeland, Director, will be attending PREA (Preventing Sexual Misconduct Against Offenders) Facilitator Certification Training in Elkhart on October 30 and November 1. The cost of the training is \$695.00. Additional cost will include the cost of the hotel room for three nights. These costs will be paid for out of the Project Income Fund. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the training. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

MEETINGS / CIRCUIT COURT: Judge Potter attended a CASA meeting in Indianapolis on Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14 as well as the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference in Fort Wayne on September 18 through the 20th. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the 2008 Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program State-Local Agreement submitted by Karen Wilson, EMA Director. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PERMISSION TO HIRE / AUDITOR: Kim Grow, Auditor, requested permission to replace two (2) employees who will be retiring this year. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the replacement of the two (2) employees. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Walstra made a motion to continue the meeting until Monday, October 21, 2013 on an as needed basis only. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kendell Culp, President

Richard E. Maxwell, Vice President

James A. Walstra, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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